

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 23, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4 and 10-14 were rejected as being unpatentable over IBM Tech in view of Abramovici. The rejection states in part:

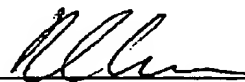
Not specifically described in detail in IBM Tech is the approach whereby external tester is of programmable test generation type. However Abramovici...discloses...such techniques.... [I]t would have been obvious...to modify the procedure in IBM Tech by including therein programmable test pattern circuitry for external application of test data as taught by Abramovici, because such modification would...reduce tester hardware overhead.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

IBM Tech and Abramovici relates to distinctly different test techniques. IBM Tech relates essentially to *a circuit substitution technique for system test*. Abramovici, on the other hand, relates to BIST, i.e., *built-in self-test of integrated circuits*. It may be appreciated, therefore, that the testing techniques of IBM Tech and Abramovici are directed to different levels and are essentially non-overlapping. For this reason, it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of the references in manner suggested.

Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 2, 4, 5 and 10-14 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: June 23, 2006